

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) An in vitro serological diagnosis method for detecting the presence of antibodies specific to an infectious microbial agent in a sample to be tested, which comprises:

a) depositing on a solid substrate a first antigen Ag₁ comprising a whole Staphylococcus aureus ~~Staphylococcus aureus~~ bacterium which comprises protein A and at least one second antigen Ag₂, wherein said second antigen Ag₂ is an infectious microbial agent, and

b) contacting said first antigen Ag₁ and said at least one second antigen Ag₂ with a sample to be tested causing said first antigen Ag₁ and said at least one second Ag₂ to react with a sample to be tested, and

c) detecting whether a human immunoglobulin Ac₁ in said human serum sample reacts with said first antigen Ag₁ by causing the reaction product Ag₁-Ac₁ to react with a detection substance, wherein said detection substance reacts with said human immunoglobulin and not with said first antigen (Ag₁), and wherein athe reaction product Ag₁-Ac₁ is formed from the reaction of said human immunoglobulin

Ac₁ and said first antigen Ag₁, and

d) providing a controlled sample containing a human serum to be tested for detecting whether said detection substance has reacted with the reaction product,

wherein said detection substance is a secondary detection antibody Ac₂ which is a labeled anti-human immunoglobulin which does not react with protein A, and wherein said detection substance is labeled by fluorescent marking.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 16, wherein said anti-human immunoglobulin is an immunoglobulin of animal origin which is goat immunoglobulin or chick immunoglobulin.

18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 18 which further comprises:

- performing a series of tests at increasing dilutions of the sample to be tested with the detection substance Ac₂, wherein the detection substance Ac₂ is an immunoglobulin conjugated with a fluorescent substance, and

- verifying whether a reaction product $Ag_1-Ac_1-Ac_2$ can be detected by fluorescence at a dilution of the sample to be tested of 1/200 or less, wherein the reaction product $Ag_1-Ac_1-Ac_2$ is formed by the reaction of the human immunoglobulin Ac_1 , the first antigen Ag_1 , and the detection substance Ac_2 .

20. (previously presented) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 15, wherein said infectious microbial agent of said second antigen Ag_2 is a micro-organism selected from a bacterium, a virus, a parasite or a fungus.

21. (previously presented) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 20, wherein said second antigen Ag_2 is an intracellular bacterium or a virus.

22. (currently amended) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 20, wherein said second antigen Ag_2 is a bacteria selected from Rickettsia, Coxiella, Bartonella, Tropheryma, Ehrlichia, Chlamydia, Mycoplasma, Treponema, Borrelia, or Leptospira~~Rickettsia, Coxiella, Bartonella, Tropheryma, Ehrlichia, Chlamydia, Mycoplasma, Treponema, Borrelia, or Leptospira.~~

23. (previously presented) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 22, wherein said second antigen Ag_2 is an infectious microbial agent which is a bacterium responsible for endocarditis.

24. (previously presented) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 21, wherein said second antigen Ag₂ is an infectious microbial agent which is a viral antigen selected from human immunodeficiency virus, cytomegavirus or Epstein-Barr viruses.

25. (currently amended) A diagnosis kit for detecting the presence of antibodies specific to an infectious microbial agent in a sample to be tested, which comprises:

- a solid substrate comprising a second antigen Ag₂ which is an infectious microbial agent,

- one positive controlling inclusion comprising a human serum in the sample to be tested which comprises a first antigen Ag₁ containing a whole Staphylococcus aureus ~~Staphylococcus aureus~~ bacterium containing protein A, and

- at least one reagent which can detect the presence of a reaction product of said first antigen with a human immunoglobulin Ac₁ comprising a detection substance Ac₂ which comprises a labeled immunoglobulin which is an anti-human immunoglobulin which does not react with protein A.